

SEPTEMBER 2009 New Milford High School Monthly Report

Compiled by Eric Sheninger

1. Observations

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Observed by</u>
Mary Bilali	Guidance	9/21/09	0	Eric Sheninger
Carina Porr	Guidance	9/24/09	4	Eric Sheninger
Jim Carr	Guidance	9/25/09	4	Eric Sheninger
Keith Devereaux	Biology	9/30/09	1	Eric Sheninger
Barbara Collentine	English 9H	9/24/09	7	Lou Manuppelli
Amy Solimano	Spanish 2	9/25/09	4	Lou Manuppelli

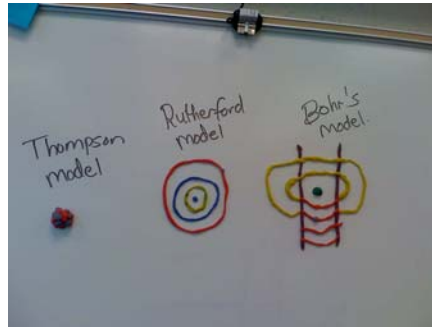
Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

- On September 29th, photographer and graduate of Pratt Institute, Julia Buccieri, came to visit Miss Bettini's high school art classes to present her work and speak to students about careers in art. Her experience in working as a free-lance artist has given her opportunities to work for companies such as Puma, Penguin Clothing, and Time Out Magazine. Students had the chance to observe artwork and ask questions about their futures in art.

3. Innovations:

- Teachers have begun to use Skype in the classroom to extend learning opportunities outside the walls of NMHS. Skype is a type of software that enables conversations to take place instantly at any point in the world either through video or audio. Millions of individuals and businesses use Skype to make free video and voice calls, send instant messages, and share files with other Skype users. For schools, Skype is a free form of video conferencing. Skype empowers students and teachers by adding features for collaboration, live video, and instant file sharing. It also allows staff to connect to the world on a teacher's budget, have school beyond the classroom door, and encourage student collaboration. On Monday September 14th, Ms. Tambusico "Skyped in" a guest speaker, Shalmi Barmore, from Israel for her Holocaust class in room 110 during 8th period. The topic of the lesson for the day was to define the term "genocide" and analyze this definition as it related to the term "Holocaust". Mr. Barmore was able to give historical insight into the creation and use of the term "genocide" and the history behind labeling the genocide that took place during WWII as "The Holocaust". Mr. Barmore shared scholarly information on the use of these terms from his years of experience in education at Yad Vashem - Israel's Holocaust memorial. Students were able interact directly with Mr. Barmore in real time through a vibrant discussion.
- As part of the effort to continue mentoring the 9th grade students, peer leaders have begun a series of visits to 9th grade homerooms to address questions, concerns, and provide useful school wide information to the 9th grade students. This effort is a continuation of the 9th grade orientation program to assist in a smooth transition to high school. Peer leaders will continue to make an effort to reach out to these students throughout the year.
- Chemistry students recently worked in groups of four using modeling clay to create three of the four models of the atom. The models were the Thompson Model, Rutherford Model and Bohr's Model. Students were asked to show using the clay how these three models differs from each other. The activity was used to reinforce a previously taught lecture/lesson describing each of the models. A student from three different groups then placed each of the models on the board so a side by side comparison of their differences could be shown and also explained by the students.



- Applied Music Theory is a brand new course in the music department. It is an exciting opportunity to learn about music theory, appreciation, and develop some technical recording experience. Student's have brought in different background and influences to contribute to the class environment. Several parents were impressed at Back to School night to see a unique course offering in a high school. Mr. Andolino has already been contacted by several recent NMHS alumni who wished they had that course when they were here!
- New teacher Ms. D'Amato has instituted an Italian Club this year. The Italian club would be open to all students who have a genuine interest in learning about the Italian culture and language. A student would not have to be enrolled in Italian class to join, but a serious interest will be required. Objectives and activities of the club would be to practice Italian in a relaxed atmosphere, promote the Italian language within the Middle School and High School, learn about the Italian culture through music, movies, food, presentations and authentic celebrations, possible outings to authentic restaurants, museums and festivals, and possible fundraising or community service to Italian or Italian-American charities.
- Mrs. Keesing has updated the library website by adding a link to her Delicious page on the library website. Delicious is a Web 2.0 book marking resource that allows for easy sharing of worthwhile websites. Mrs. Keesing is also pleased to add another new, innovative subscription database, Global Issues in Context, to the library's electronic resources. Global Issues in Context provides information about international current events and issues in a student-friendly format.
- Students in new Business Practice Firm course announced that the name of their firm will be "Wizard of Vase Florist" (WOV Florist). This course is a simulated business that mirrors the real world. The company has been set up by the students with the assistance of Mrs. Vicari and real-world business partner "Wine and Roses." With guidance, the students first determine the nature of their business, its products and/or services, its structure and management, and then move on to engage in the daily operations of running and growing a business. Emphasis is placed on using current business software, communications, and the Internet for business transactions. In this authentic office setting, the student-employees engage in simulated business transactions with other schools and colleges in a closed economic network. Each firm in the network acts as both buyer and seller with other firms in the network. In addition, the student-employees use their wages to purchase goods or services from other firms. To date, the students have chosen a name and designed a logo for their business. Articles of Incorporation have been submitted and the students are now determining what their Operating expenses will be. The students will with with Art

Caughlan of the Nelson-Patterson Insurance Agency and Lou Denis from “Wine & Roses” on 9/30/09 to determine what some of their operating costs will be. The next part of the course will focus on writing a business plan, designing a web-site, setting up personnel records, accounting, marketing, and purchasing procedures. They have elected their Board of Directors and Officers and students will be working in either the areas of Human Resource, Marketing, Finance/Accounting or Purchasing.

- Ms. Smith’s Chemistry students recently completed a t-shirt project. Groups of three to four students designed and created a T-shirt based on an element on the periodic table they had chosen to learn about. No group could pick the same element. Students were able to express their creativity by making either a paper/cardboard cut-out T-shirt or using a real T-shirt as their background.



Each group was given a set of criteria and a rubric that had to be met and placed on their T-shirts. This included designing a logo/symbol for their element, a group name that was placed on their T-shirt, answers to four questions, facts and background information on their element, and relevant graphics that supported their element. No information or facts could be used more than once on the T-shirt. On project due date, students presented their T-shirt to the class and shared what they have learned about each element.



- In order to learn the properties of elements, Ms. Smith recently had her class play a specific card game. Students were placed into groups of three or four. Each group was given a pack of element playing cards that had information about the elements on the periodic table, such as, symbol, element’s name, atomic number, atomic mass and certain properties. The game is played by each student receiving six element playing cards. After deciding who asks the question on the playing card first, the game proceeds in a clockwise direction. Students can be asked to name the symbol or name of an element. This allows students to start learning the different elements on the periodic table.



If a student can not answer the question, the card is placed on the bottom of the deck and the person who asked the question picks up a new card from the deck while always keeping a base of six cards in their hands. If the student answers correctly, the student keeps the card. The person in the group that has collected the most card wins the game. A Joker card allows the students to either steal a card from another player or get another turn at answering another question. At the end of the game, each student writes down any new elements or information they have learned and shares it with the class. This game can be played throughout the year and can be made more complex as the subject content information increases by adding topics such as the atomic number, orbital's of the elements, and the type of bonding.

- In keeping with the NMHS mission, Ms. Daloisio from the CST and Mr. Malka from the Special Education Department have created and developed a new group which focuses on our students' interests, goals and their futures. When students discuss what they want to do upon graduation, they often provide basic responses: teacher, police officer, military, and doctor. However, there are many students who do not know what career is right for them. During the class period, students have begun to think about where their interests lie in order to discover their future career. In the weeks ahead, they will begin to discuss various careers in depth and learn the difference between holding a job and having a career. Through hand outs and group discussions, students will continue to explore the numerous choices and opportunities that exist for them in today's world.

4. Student honors:

- Four students at New Milford High School have been designated an *AP Scholar* by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams. The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. Almost eighteen percent of the more than 1.7 million high school students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar. Students took AP Exams in May 2009 after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of yearlong courses and exams (or their equivalent semester-long courses and exams). At New Milford High School:
 - *One student qualified for the *AP Scholar Award* by completing three or more AP Examinations, with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholar is Katherine Carter.
 - *One student qualified for the *AP Scholar with Distinction Award* by earning an average grade of at least 3.55 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on 4 or more of these exams. This student is: Kristi Saporito.

*Two students qualified for the *AP Scholar with Honor Award* by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on 5 or more of these exams. Kinjal Desai and Angela Wan were recognized for this achievement.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement, or both, based on successful performance on the AP Exams. More than 3,800 colleges and universities worldwide award credit to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades. In 2009, thirty-seven AP Exams were offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response (essay or problem-solving) questions (except for the Studio Art exam which evaluates students' original artwork).

- Senior Cassidy Holowach was selected Player of the Month by NJSports (Volume 5 Issue 9). The following is the article that appeared in the publication: *Cassidy Holowach dominated the Lady Knights' 5-1 victory over Hawthorne Christian in the BCLS-Olympic Division girl's soccer match on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. The 5-8 center midfielder turned in a hat trick effort, netting three goals and distributing a pair of assists as she spurred the Lady Knights to their first success of the season. During the winter season, Holowach is a standout on the Lady Knights' basketball team that advanced to the NJSIAA sectional final. She will enter the 2009-2010 campaign with 750 points to her credit. An honors student in the classroom, Holowach is leaning to a career in the fashion world and anticipates attending FIT in New York City. (Article by Rob Cuttito of Kean University).*

5. Field trips

6. Guidance

- During the 2008-2009 school year, New Milford High School became the first public high school in New Jersey to enter into an agreement with St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) in Sparkill, New York to offer college level courses to eligible 11th and 12th grade students at NMHS. Upon successful completion of a designated class, students will be issued three college credits through a transcript provided by STAC. This opportunity is being offered to our students at a highly discounted college credit rate. This valuable high school extension program will be continuing for the 2009-2010 school year. The courses that are currently being offered at NMHS through the STAC college credit program are PreCalculus Honors and Film Studies. NMHS has received an extremely positive response to this program, and enrollment has increased significantly for the current school year. Besides being practical and economical, our high school extension programs are another way of giving NMHS students a competitive edge in the world of higher education.
- The first edition of the Guidance Department newsletter (Guidance Notes) for the 2009-2010 school year will be mailed to parents with the first quarter progress reports in early October.

7. Professional Development

- On September 23rd, Mr. Manuppelli and Mrs. Zacher attended the training program "Sticks and Stones", a comprehensive prevention and educational program on cyber-bullying and sexual predation. With the increase use of technology regarding cell phones and the internet, it is imperative that New Milford High School educates the student body on their overall responsibilities towards protecting themselves regarding their own safety and wellbeing. We recommend that the documentary, "Sticks and Stones" be viewed by the entire student body by grade level, which correlates with "Red Ribbon and Violent Prevention Week". Each grade level will be divided into two different groups in accordance to their homerooms. The first portion of the period will be the actual watching of "Sticks and Stones" the second portion will be an open discussion with the students regarding their reactions and overall feelings and emotions.

- On October 20th, Mrs. Tambuscio and Ms. Perna will attend a workshop held at Liberty Science Center in which history teachers from across New Jersey will meet in reference to a 9/11 Terrorism curriculum that has been written and compiled by a team of teachers across the state. Teachers attending have volunteered to receive training to pilot one or more lessons from this curriculum in their classrooms. Participants will also be provided guidelines towards providing a safe classroom environment and general education methodology. This is an exciting professional and educational opportunity for both teachers and students who will have the opportunity to be a part of this lesson piloting program. Mrs. Tambuscio has served on the committee of teachers who have written and compiled this curriculum.
- Project ABLE training, in which teachers create authentic-based learning environment projects, continued for nine faculty members on September 23rd. The teachers participating in Project ABLE training are: Mr. Coviello, Mr. Devereaux, Mrs. Grompone, Mrs. Keesing, Mr. Lockhart, Ms. Lyons, Ms. Millian, Mrs. Monroe, and Mrs. Solimano. One of the goals of Project ABLE is to create a collaborative network in which teachers can share projects with teachers from other districts. In the future, this sharing will include national and international schools. Our teachers helped evaluate the current Project ABLE portal that will allow posting and sharing of projects. Teachers also spent time designing additional projects using the Project ABLE format.
- Ms. O'Donnell recently participated in a webinar entitled "Get Ready for Flu Season H1N1 Resources for Schools" presented by Discovery Education.

8. Facilities

- The high school recently purchased five more Mac Book computers for use with the mobile iPod learning lab. The school now has a total of fifteen of these state-of-the-art laptops for both student and teacher use. Each Mac Book also had the productivity suite iWork installed on them, which is Apple's equivalent to Microsoft Office (PowerPoint, Excel, and Word).
- The Related Arts Department under the guidance of Mr. Pevny has recently been setting up a Music Studio down stairs in the old CIE room. Working with Mr. Andolino and Mrs. Swartz, they have been able to purchase a new laptop computer, an M-Audio Interface, a new midi keyboard, microphones, boom stands and other equipment. With other school members bringing in their own equipment, the Music Studio "Experiment" should be one that takes our students into the digital age of recording. This is not limited to just the music students. All are welcomed to partake in the experience.
- Ms. Perna (room 243) received thirty brand new desks for her classroom.

9. Theatre Arts

- The 2009 fall comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*, by William Shakespeare has been cast and has begun rehearsals! Over thirty NMHS students are in the cast and over twenty-five students have signed up for stage crew duties. Directed by Kerr Lockhart and produced by John Coviello, Heidi Kolb, and Nicollete Perna, this show promises to be not only humorous, but very educational. Kerr Lockhart has vowed to link the show to the high school curriculum through the English department and we expect high student attendance. Due to the fact that we want to expose as many students to Shakespeare as possible all New Milford District students and children under ten years of age will be five dollars! All other tickets are eight dollars in advance and ten at the door. All seating will be general. The show will run from November 19th until the 22nd in the James Africano Auditorium.
- The International Thespian Society has begun a fresh year at NMHS and has announced the following additions to the theatrical program of the high school. In late October, delegates will travel to the senior citizens center to perform stories by Edgar Allen Poe and in April

the members will be performing children's theatre for the youngsters that participate in the Early Childhood Development program. The Thespians are also working on a school service project entitled "Who's Who in New Milford High School." Details to come. Troupe director John Coviello and advisors Kerr Lockhart and Nicollete Perna are very excited about the autonomous leadership and student driven service ideas that have been developing already.

- The NMHS drama club, The Opening Knights, held executive board elections on September 25th. A new President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Parliamentarian were elected.
- NMHS is now a member of the National Youth Theatre Awards program. This program recognizes accomplishments in high school theatre nationwide and is growing in membership at an exponential rate. NMHS can submit all productions for review by this organization and will hopefully add more awards to the display case this spring.

10. Other

- Mr. Sheninger has been asked to speak at the 140 Characters Conference: Exploring the State of Now. The conference will be taking place at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, CA on October 27th and 28th. He will be speaking on a panel with other educators from across the country and world about the emerging role of Twitter in education. More specifically, the panel will address the following:
 - How Twitter is changing the face of Education.
 - What it means to tweet about education.
 - How Twitter is enabling global discussions on Education.
 - How Twitter is highlighting the good part of Education and what is working now.
 - How Twitter will bring together educators, parents, administrators, board members, etc. and help change what is not working.
 - The origin of Edchat and topics discussed.
 - Can 140 characters change Education?

For more information on the 140 Conference, visit <http://lax.140conf.com>

- The New Milford High School athletic program has been recognized by NJSIAA with the honor of receiving the BCSL Olympic 2008-2009 Sportsmanship Banner. This is NMHS's first such award. The recognition is a result of a league coach ballot at the end of each sports season which ranks the combination of how athletes/coaches/fans of each school present themselves during athletic competition. The banner will be presented to Athletic Director, Jerry Perrone, at the annual NJSIAA business meeting in December.
- NMHS received a grant from the REBEL program! REBEL is a New Jersey teen tobacco prevention program which is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Mrs. Zacher, the Student Assistance Coordinator was able to secure a grant for \$1,100.00 which will be utilized to sponsor activities which promotes awareness of the negative repercussions of tobacco use. She will facilitate the youth led REBEL group which will start accepting members within the next two weeks.
- NMHS will be introducing a new club called MSG Varsity, which will provide students exciting opportunities in the areas of video production, web design, photo journalism, and reporting. MSG Varsity is a unique suite of services featuring local high school sports and activities that Cablevision is launching this fall. It will be comprised of a dynamic television network, a comprehensive web destination, and an interactive television site focused on high school sports and activities from across the tri-state area. This is a fantastic opportunity to promote activities that take place in our school to over three million subscribers in the Cablevision service area. The producers and on-air talent will work directly with our students, coaches, teachers, and administrators in order to guide them through television production, and mentoring them in the creation of online, interactive and television content.

MSG Varsity is the first “co-production” of its kind for television and the internet and will feature coverage of our schools’ games and activities that will resonate locally and regionally with parents, students and educators. In addition, our staff and students will also benefit from a comprehensive package from MSG Varsity that includes:

- \$1,000 stipend for a teacher to serve as an MSG Varsity advisor
 - \$2,000 grant to support media creation
 - Equipment, including a video camera, to assist in media creation
 - Two \$1,000 scholarships to our school to award to graduating seniors
 - Additional learning opportunities
 - Two digital cable boxes which will be provided at no cost to our school, enabling students and teachers to view the MSG Varsity channel, website and interactive content.
- The High School has organized a major fundraiser with the help of Sanducci’s and Jersey Boy’s. The Dining to Donate Extravaganza will take place Monday October 12th through Thursday October 15th. Anyone that presents a flyer at lunch, dinner, or for take out orders at either of these restaurants will have 15% of their entire bill donated back to the students of NMHS.
(get flyer from www.newmilfordschools.org/NMHS/media/Dining_Extravaganza.pdf).
- The Junior Class started the school year off with a Back to School Karaoke Night Dance on Friday, September 11th. The state of the art karaoke system was purchased for the school compliments of the 2008-2009 Student Council and Mrs. Collentine (the old Ms. Schlamp). A good time was had by all and the enthusiasm was such that we could be hearing from the voices again in the near future.
- It will be a great year for volunteering in the New Milford Community! Over sixty students have joined the NMHS Community Service Club for 2009-2010! In an effort to support research and education, approximately fifty students have signed up to walk with Team NMHS at the October 18th Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.